

**Tackling Excess Winter Deaths and cold
related illnesses in Barnsley 2018-2021**

Excess winter deaths (EWD's) are a statistical measure to quantify the effect of winter months for a given population. It can be expressed as the number of extra people who have died, or as an index comparing winter deaths to the number of deaths that occur at other times of the year.

As the Excess Winter Mortality (EWM) index varies each year, we use a 3 year average. The most recent figures for Barnsley, (3 year average 2013-2016 all person, all ages) is 24.3% (indicative number = 529), compared to the Yorkshire average (17.8%) and England average (17.9%). The next release of the data will be in November 2018.

Most excess winter deaths in Barnsley occur in the 65-84 year age group. Flu & Pneumonia and respiratory diseases were the main underlying causes of excess winter deaths in Barnsley between 2008 and 2015.

There is no clear cut explanation for excess winter mortality and is due to a variety of wider factors, such as temperature, socio-economic circumstances, underlying health conditions, influenza and other viral infections, fuel poverty, housing tenure & housing conditions, and personal & social behaviours.

Progress to tackle EWDs in Barnsley

Last year, a task and finish group involving representatives from Barnsley Council, Barnsley CCG and voluntary & community sector produced a high level action plan 2017-18, outlining outcomes, key tasks and timescales to address the main contributory factors of EWDs.

Available data, national guidance (including NICE guidance NG6 to address EWD's and cold related illnesses <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6>), and good practice locally, has informed the development of the plan. This includes targeted approaches with a range of vulnerable/at risk groups e.g. older people, people living with respiratory conditions/cardiovascular disease, homeless people, children under 5 years

Key achievements during winter 2017-8:

Cold homes & energy efficiency:

- A new cold homes referral pathway was implemented with SYHA My Best Life.
- Successful Warm Homes Fund bid (2nd round) – subject to contract. The funding will establish a single point of access and improve identification of residents vulnerable to fuel poverty and EWD's
- 39 energy efficiency events (July and March 2018)- face to face advice & potential saving through energy switching
- Better Homes Barnsley installed 114 energy efficiency measures (July 2017- March 2018). Annual target for Better Homes Barnsley exceeded.

- Promotional resources and social media campaign (Jan- Feb) to promote energy efficiency grants. 1,400 leaflets given out promoting service available to address EWDs. Social media campaign generated 1492 unique page views and 2930 total engagements

Flu vaccination uptake (Sept – Jan 18):

- High uptake for all eligible children exceeding regional and national averages.
- For other groups - achieved or exceeded the England average for 2017/18
- The 2017/18 uptake is higher in all groups than the 2016/17 uptake

Falls prevention:

- ‘Back on Your Feet in Barnsley’ workstreams developed.
- First training sessions delivered for Care Homes in January 2018
- Delivery of Red bag scheme in Care homes, with further engagement across the system
- BHNFT and Acute Frailty Network
- Plans underway for urgent care of frail people within the first 72 hours in hospital

In July 2018, a stakeholder event involving a broad range of commissioners and providers from key organisations, reviewed progress from last year’s winter and planned forward to this winter and beyond.

The themes have informed this high level action plan for Barnsley 2018-2021 to prepare for this winter and future winters. Using the Cold Weather Plan for England (2017) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cold-weather-plan-cwp-for-england> , the focus will be level 0 and 1 levels of winter preparedness, to align with existing local adverse weather plans and winter emergency & system resilience planning. This plan will address system wide changes and integrated working, in particular to implement a single point of access for housing & health. The service will address cold homes & fuel poverty aligned with hospital discharge and as part of the wider Assisted Living Review. The plan will also set out actions to improve uptake of flu vaccinations; falls prevention; and develop a communication plan. The progress in Barnsley will feed into a wider South Yorkshire approach driven forward by the mayor as part of his manifesto to address Excess Winter Deaths and cold homes, raising the profile of this critical public health issue at a national level.

System wide delivery

Overarching target for Excess Winter Deaths (Barnsley Council corporate indicator) Reduce EWD's to at least 15% by 2020

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Timescales- Winter or year round?	Lead organisation/ group	Link to local/ national plans and guidance
Identify people at risk of excess winter morbidity and mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and utilise key data sources and wider intelligence to identify people Work collaboratively to address any barriers for sharing data, including consent, data sharing agreements and GDPR compliance Move towards a database with housing and health issues to help with targeting and service planning Use existing data sources and statistics to prioritise areas and cohorts, including the use of risk stratification and geographical mapping information Continue data analysis using qualitative and quantitative sources to understand more about EWDs and cold related illness, to inform the action plan through to hyper local levels, (including those not currently accessing services and how to support those who are not eligible for formal care). 	Improved identification of areas and cohorts that need additional targeting	Year round	Early Help Adults Group	<p>NICE quality standard QS117 quality statement 2</p> <p>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs117</p> <p>Cold Weather Plan for England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cold-weather-plan-cwp-for-england</p> <p>Excess Seasonal Deaths Toolkit</p> <p>https://pbcc.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/ref-11-seasonal-access-deaths.pdf</p>
Implement a borough wide assessment of people at risk of excess winter morbidity and mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with key health & social care agencies, include housing tenure and conditions within assessments to identify risk and take action Key questions developed around falls, housing & flu and shared with practitioners to identify individuals at risk and support 	Clear processes for identifying and taking action for people at risk	Year round	Early Help Adults Group	<p>Excess Seasonal Deaths Toolkit</p> <p>NICE quality standard QS117</p>

	<p>available to address EWD's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on “making every contact count” – ensuring a systematic approach across the borough and across different sectors • Identify those who may require additional support during the winter period and ensure they are contacted if alerts are issued. 				<p>quality statement 4</p> <p>Cold Weather Plan for England</p> <p>NICE guidance NG6 recommendation 6</p> <p>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6</p>
<p>Implementation or signposting to interventions to address winter morbidity and mortality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree collaborative referral pathways for actions that address EWD and EWM • Develop an asset based model and encourage resilience within local communities • Work closely with Area Councils to build capacity within communities to support those most vulnerable to cold weather during high alert levels e.g. Tackling Excess Winter Deaths service in Worsborough • Consider cross cutting practical support for communities including cold weather packs 	<p>Clear referral pathways for actions that address EWD and EWM</p>	<p>Year round</p>	<p>Early Help Adults Group</p>	<p>Cold Weather Plan for England</p>
<p>Monitor and evaluate Impact of actions to address winter morbidity and mortality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor outputs and track interventions to understand better that is having an impact on addressing excess winter morbidity and mortality down to a hyper local level • Undertake a stakeholder analysis and equality impact assessment to review and monitor three year plan • Consider completing a health needs assessment for those at risk of excess winter morbidity and mortality 	<p>Evaluation plan agreed</p>	<p>Year round</p>	<p>Excess Winter Death Reduction Task Group</p>	<p>Cold Weather Plan for England</p>
<p>System wide communication plan for the public and stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate across the borough on a winter campaign including a calendar of events aimed at addressing causes of EWD, calls to action, key resources, encouraging behaviour change, key messages and “myth busting” • Raise awareness of EWD prevention and impacts including social isolation, to the public 	<p>Collaborative engagement plan</p> <p>Clear shared messages to key partners and public</p>	<p>Winter 2018, 2019, 2020</p>	<p>Excess Winter Deaths Communication Group</p>	<p>NICE guidance NG6 recommendation 11</p> <p>Cold Weather Plan for England</p>

	<p>and across all agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of local and national support available to local residents all year round • Work closely with area councils to target those who do not engage with services (using techniques such as peer to peer engagement, MOSAIC and areas with large footfall e.g. shopping centres and local markets) 	Evaluation of plan and key messages to inform future plans			
Engage and integrate with key partners aligned to the Integrated Care Partnership across Barnsley to address EWDs and EWM	<p>Key partners to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital discharge and Right Care Barnsley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure vulnerable people are discharged in to a safe, warm home ○ To be identified as part of the admission process as part of their discharge plan • Primary care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Links to frailty index ○ Links to annual patient review ○ Links to practice delivery agreement • My Best Life social prescribing • Housing providers • Private rented sector • Area Councils • Domiciliary Care • Early help- 0-19 providers and services • Pharmacy • Carers strategy • Voluntary, Community and Faith sector • Commission joined up interventions that take consideration of EWD impact and focus on the prevention agenda 	Key partners fully engaged	Year Round	<p>Barnsley Health and Social Care Together</p> <p>Children Young People and Families</p> <p>Early Help and Adults Early Help</p>	<p>NICE quality standard QS117 quality statement 5 & 6</p> <p>NICE guidance NG6 recommendation 11</p> <p>Cold Weather Plan for England</p>
Raise the profile of issues influencing EWDs and cold related illness locally, South Yorkshire wide and nationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to engage with government consultation on issues linked to EWD's and EWM • Work with politicians including MPs, Councillors and the South Yorkshire Mayor to 	Raised profile on a South Yorkshire footprint	Year round	Excess Winter Deaths Task Group	Cold Weather Plan for England

	<p>continue to raise awareness of EWD and associated factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share learning from across SY and Barnsley that aim to address EWDs and associated factors. 				
Implement a pilot Safe & Well checks scheme targeting vulnerable 65+ year olds, focussing on cold homes, falls prevention, fire and crime prevention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Yorkshire fire and rescue service to visit vulnerable people over 65 in the Cudworth Fire Station Area and respond to referrals from partner organisation to provide safe and well checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent crime Increase fire safety Reduce fuel poverty Prevent falls 	Year round	Adults Early Help Delivery Group	
Make Barnsley an Age Friendly borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Age Friendly Framework, particularly those elements of the framework which relate to tackling EWDs, housing and reducing cold related illness Assess the needs of the older population, considering support for home moving, equity release and adaptations of properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make Barnsley Age Friendly 	Year round	Adults Early Help Delivery Group	<p>WHO Age Friendly Communities</p> <p>https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/age-friendly-communities</p>
Use of assistive technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with BMBC's in-house provider to look in more detail at the use of assistive technology in to address cold, damp homes and falls prevention Consider how the "Internet of things" and access to smart technology can address causes of EWD in Barnsley, in particular those who are on low incomes or have a diagnosis of dementia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents able to live in their own homes independently 	Year round	Excess Winter Death Task Group	
Raise awareness of the impact of adverse weather through alerts, emergency preparedness and building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement adverse weather plan (year round and covers all weathers) Review process for cascading alerts and information to BMBC, Health and Community Partners and supporting local initiatives e.g. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of cold weather and impacts on health and wellbeing 	Year round	BMBC Health, Safety & Emergency Resilience Service	<p>Cold Weather Plan for England</p> <p>National Civil</p>

community resilience.	<p>Age UK Barnsley Winter Register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication of national “Get Ready for Winter” messages • Encourage community groups and Ward Alliances to develop Community Resilience Plans • Maintain general plans both internally and with South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum partners to respond to civil emergencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved resilience and preparedness at a community level. • Council plans to respond to civil emergencies . 			Contingencies Act
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Improve cold homes & energy efficiency					
KPI /target – fuel poverty rate for Barnsley is estimated to be 12.2% (BEIS, 2016 statistics). There is currently no agreed Barnsley target					
Objectives	Actions	Outcomes	Timescales- Winter or year round?	Lead organisation/ group	Link to local/ national plans and guidance
Roll out Fuel poverty training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training to front line workers and those who come in to contact with Barnsley residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of training sessions delivered • No of workers accessing online training (BMBC and health staff) 	Year round	BMBC housing and energy team	NICE guidance NG6 recommendation 8-10
Billing and tariff switching advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to switch suppliers and signpost to advice on how to compare tariffs and switching suppliers. • Ensure residents access Warm Home Discount and joint Priority Service Register if eligible • Promote benefit checks as a mode of reducing fuel poverty through income maximisation • Launch and promote the Council’s local energy offer Great North Energy to residents who could save money by switching • Launch Berneslai Homes’ void switching programme Great North Energy to the new local energy tariff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of residents switching to new local energy supply offer and cost savings to residents as a result • Number of pre-payment meters removed and cost savings to residents as a result 	Year round	Housing and Energy Task Group	Excess Seasonal Deaths Toolkit

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Great North Energy to remove unwanted pre-payment meters when residents switch their supply • Work with Great North Energy to provide smart meters where requested and as standard in void Berneslai properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of smart meters installed 			
NEA Warm Homes Campaign Award 18/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for funding to promote local schemes and raise awareness of fuel poverty and support available to residents locally and nationally • Raise profile of fuel poverty, excess winter deaths and support available locally and nationally for Barnsley residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding awarded 	<p>Winter period only</p> <p>Dates for 2018/19 not yet released</p>	BMBC Housing and Energy team	Cold Weather Plan for England
Promote Barnsley's home energy efficiency offer for private sector housing to improve thermal comfort and increase properties EPC rating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Better Homes Barnsley offer and deliver marketing plan • Deliver Warm Homes Fund for grants for residents without central heating systems in private sector housing • Apply for additional Warm Homes funding to provide more central heating systems in private sector housing • Delivery of heating systems through DFG • Stay Put supporting residents to apply for additional funding for energy efficiency improvements and giving advice on falls prevention and housing improvements. • Work with Better Homes partners to provide insulation works in target areas for private sector housing • Work with Better Homes to secure additional funding to support delivery of energy efficiency works in private sector housing • Appoint a contractor to deliver an underfloor insulation pilot in private sector housing • Set up a heating on prescription scheme, to be delivered via Better Homes Barnsley, for emergency cases with health need • Advertise availability of interest free repayment loans for homeowners to improve energy efficiency of their property – Energy Repayment 	<p>Improved housing standards and more energy efficient properties leading to reduction in fuel poverty, social isolation, and improved health and wellbeing of residents</p> <p>Number of properties receiving energy efficiency works through BHB – target of 100 for 2018/19.</p>	Sept 2018- Sept 2019	Housing and Energy Task Group	Excess Seasonal Deaths Toolkit

	Loan.				
Improve housing standards, prioritising interventions on private sector housing to improve the health and wellbeing of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work across the system to raise awareness of the standard of private sector housing, including a focus on addressing HHRSS hazards, particularly excess cold, damp and mould growth and falls • Engage closely with landlords and tenants to gain a greater understanding of the issues faced by both groups, provide support and access to grants and loans and where necessary take enforcement action. • Ensure buildings meet ventilation and other building and trading standards • Explore potential of commissioning a private sector housing stock condition survey • Develop a borough-wide approach to addressing carbon monoxide that could include an awareness campaign and promotion of carbon monoxide alarms. 	Improvement in housing stock conditions	Year round	Private sector housing task and finish group	NICE guidance NG6 recommendation 12
Integrate homeless prevention into the wider EWD plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider undertaking a health impact assessment of the homeless- community in Barnsley • Support the creation of a severe weather emergency protocol (SWEP) • Support Homeless Alliance to address excess winter deaths and identify accommodation for those who present as homeless along with emergency provision over periods of severe weather. • Support new powers and statutory responsibilities under the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 	Homelessness reduced	Year round	Homeless Alliance	Homeless Reduction Act 2018
Creation of a single point of access for cold homes and fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single point of access for fuel poor and cold homes (as set out in NICE guidance) with onward referrals to additional support where required • The creation of a borough wide fuel poverty stakeholder group with health and VCF 	New team established and fully functioning single point of access for fuel poverty	Year round Jan 2019- December 2021	Warm Homes Fund steering group	NICE guidance NG6 recommendation 2 and 3 Cold Weather Plan

	<p>partners to co-ordinate the approach across Barnsley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit team of trained specialists charged with the provision of advice designed to address issues relating to cold homes and fuel poverty (with a focus on off gas, private rented sector and those with cold related diseases) The provision of localised support with fuel poverty volunteers (in the form of three year pilot scheme funded by the North Area Council) 				for England
Continue to work across the borough to address fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support residents to maximise their income through benefit checks and accessing energy company monies such as Warm Home Discount Investigate the possibility of setting up a fuel bank in Barnsley Continue to offer crisis loans and grants to residents who meet the eligibility criteria. Provide good quality advice to residents suffering from fuel debt and those who are self-disconnecting. Continue to work with Energise Barnsley to fund projects that address EWD and EWM 	Reduced level of fuel poverty in Barnsley	Year round	Anti-Poverty Delivery Group	NICE Guidance NG6

Flu vaccination uptake

KPI/targets

- 75% % of eligible adults aged 65+ who have received the flu vaccine
- 55% Flu vaccination coverage (at risk individuals from age six months to under 65 years, excluding otherwise 'healthy' pregnant women and carers)
- 48% Population vaccination coverage – Flu (2-4 years old)

Objectives	Actions	Performance measures	Timescales- Winter or year round?	Lead organisation/ group	Link to local/ national plans and guidance
Ensure eligible groups receive Flu vaccination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver national communications plan/ Campaign” to increase awareness around staying well in winter and encouraging Flu vaccination in vulnerable groups, including school aged children. • Identify and offer flu vaccination to BMBC staff for those that are not in any of the eligible cohorts to receive a free NHS flu vaccination • Encourage Barnsley care homes to also offer vaccination for staff where appropriate. To carry out the PHE Care Home staff vaccination audit with Barnsley Care Homes. • Barnsley care homes to follow the local Influenza outbreak and monitoring pathway. BMBC Compliance and contracting team to actively monitoring the implementation of the pathway with care homes • Promote the flu vaccination and raise awareness of the children’s programme with early year’s providers, settings and family centres • Increase awareness among professionals and volunteers who work with the ‘at risk’ eligible population and therefore can promote flu vaccinations to their service users, carers and families. • Promote the flu vaccination and raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced hospital admissions • Reduced GP appointment waiting list • Reduced sickness at work and school from flu related illnesses. • Reduce the level of workplace sickness absenteeism Reduction in pressure on local services e.g. primary care, social care, A&E and other hospital departments 	September 2018- March 2019	Barnsley Seasonal Flu Vaccination Steering Group	<p>Barnsley Localised Flu Communications Plan</p> <p>National Annual Flu Programme & “Help Us Help You” campaign</p>

	<p>awareness of the eligible 'at risk' population among local authority workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost and promote local vaccination arrangements • Advertise directly to the community. • Health Protection Board to develop local plans for mass treatment, outbreaks and pandemic influenza 				
Engage with local business community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider working with local business and employees promote vaccines and link to business continuity e.g. stagecoach; larger employers link to healthy staff • Support business to make flu jabs more accessible to employees e.g. promoting offers from local pharmacies. 	Number of businesses supported		Barnsley Seasonal Flu Vaccination Steering Group	

Falls prevention					
KPI/target- emergency admissions from falls					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk reduction and early intervention/support • Appropriately targeted and delivered interventions to the older population at risk /individuals 65+ • Age friendly environment (people and place) 					
Objective	Actions	Outcomes	Timescales - winter or year round?	Lead organisation/ group	Link to local/ national plans and guidance
Ensure appropriate measures to reduce fall incidences and injuries resulting from falls amongst Barnsley residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & promote primary falls prevention messages (including sight loss) to reduce first falls • Agree primary prevention falls pathway & pathway for those who have fallen • Utilise Stay well campaign as a platform to promote falls prevention to older people 65+ at risk of falls • Support Area Councils to implement local falls prevention schemes • Explore how to utilise the Rockwood Frailty Tool as a tool to identify level of frailty enabling access to appropriate person centred falls prevention interventions • Develop Falls Prevention and Bone Health Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes self-care • Raised workforce awareness • Raised public awareness of the relationship between cold homes and falls • Equality of practice relating to assessment tools 	<p>December 2018</p> <p>January 2019</p> <p>March 2019</p> <p>March 2019</p>	Adult Joint Commissioning Group	<p>NICE guidance- CG161</p> <p>https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG161</p>
Address wider environmental factors impacting on falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider improving the built environment including public realm, street scene and links with planners to design out falls • Work with BMBC and Housing Providers to address maintenance of footpaths • Raise awareness of hazards in the home including improving outdoor and indoor lighting, trip hazards and other issues that can result in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced injuries resulting from falls 	Year round	Excess Winter deaths task and finish group	NICE guidance- CG161

	trips and falls within the home environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Facilities Grant – convert existing bathroom to level access showers thus reducing falls • Strengthen home assessments and referral process and link in to home visits to make every contact count. 				
Commission strength and balance training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider commission strength and balance training or “move it and loose it” training that is accredited and borough wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced injuries resulting from falls 	Year Round	Adult Joint Commissioning Group	NICE guidance- CG161

Key strategic partners

- Barnsley CCG
- Community & Voluntary sector
- Barnsley Citizens Advise Bureau
- BMBC & Area Councils
- Private sector landlords
- Barnsley Schools
- NHS England
- Berneslai Homes
- Health & social care agencies
- Age UK Barnsley
- My Best Life
- South West Yorkshire Partnership Trust
- Local pharmaceutical committee
- National Energy Alliance
- SY Fire & Rescue service
- Better Homes Yorkshire
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Barnsley residents